

In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A sterile apparatus to protect endoscope(s) comprising:
~~an impact resistant external housing forming a storage sheath to receive the instrument.~~

an impact resistant housing having an outer surface defining an opening, an interior of the housing defining a canal having a first end communicating with the opening and a second end terminating within the housing for receiving a distal lens of an endoscope; and

a defogging material disposed adjacent to the second end of the canal for defogging a distal lens of an endoscope when inserted within the canal.

2. (Currently Amended) An apparatus to protect endoscope(s) as in claim 1,
~~whereas multiple instruments may be protected in the same apparatus. wherein the~~
canal is shaped for receiving a plurality of types of endoscopes.

3. (Currently Amended) An apparatus to protect endoscope(s) as in claim 1,
~~whereas the apparatus is disposable. wherein the apparatus is made of disposable~~
material.

4. (Currently Amended) An apparatus to protect endoscope(s) as in claim 1,
~~whereas the apparatus is shaped for the intended instrument. wherein the canal is~~
complementarily shaped to that of an endoscope to be received therein.

5. (Currently Amended) An apparatus to protect endoscope(s) as in claim 1,
~~whereas the apparatus provides protection of intermittent use instruments. wherein~~
the apparatus is configured to protect endoscopes during intermittent use.

6. (Currently Amended) An apparatus to protect endoscope(s) as in claim 1,
~~whereas the apparatus provides protection for the transportation of the~~

~~instrument(s).~~ wherein the apparatus is configured to protect endoscopes during transportation.

7. (Currently Amended) An apparatus to protect endoscope(s) as in claim 1, ~~whereas a cavity formed between the external housing and the storage sheath is filled with an impact absorbing material.~~ wherein the interior of the housing includes:

a storage sheath defining the canal, the outer surface of the housing and the storage sheath defining a cavity therebetween; and

an impact absorbing material substantially filling the cavity.

8. (Currently Amended) An apparatus to protect endoscope(s) as in ~~claim 1~~ claim 7, ~~whereas~~ wherein the impact absorbing material is Styrofoam.

9. (Currently Amended) An apparatus to protect endoscope(s) as in ~~claim 1~~ claim 7, ~~whereas~~ wherein the impact absorbing material is a gel.

10. (Currently Amended) An apparatus to protect endoscope(s) as in ~~claim 1~~ claim 7, ~~whereas~~ wherein the impact absorbing material is a liquid.

11. (Currently Amended) An apparatus to protect endoscope(s) as in ~~claim 1~~ claim 7, ~~whereas~~ wherein the impact absorbing material is a gas.

12. (Currently Amended) An apparatus to protect endoscope(s) as in claim 1, ~~whereas the apparatus is removably affixed to any surface.~~ further comprising means for removably affixing the housing to a surface.

13. (Currently Amended) An apparatus to protect endoscope(s) as in claim 1, ~~whereas the apparatus attached to a cord connected to an anchor.~~ further

comprising:

an anchor; and
a cord attached to the housing and the anchor.

14. (Currently Amended) An apparatus to protect endoscope(s) as in ~~claim 13~~
~~whereas the apparatus attached to a cord is detachable~~ claim 13, wherein the cord
is removably attachable to the housing.

15. (Currently Amended) An apparatus to protect endoscope(s) as in claim 13,
~~whereas the anchor is removable.~~ wherein the anchor is removably attachable to a
surface.

Claims 16-40 (Canceled)

41. (New) An apparatus to protect endoscope(s) as in claim 1, further comprising
a valve mechanism disposed in the canal, the valve mechanism being configured to
allow for an endoscope to enter the canal and make contact with the defogging
material while preventing the defogging material from spilling out of the canal.

42. (New) An apparatus to protect endoscope(s) as in claim 1, further comprising
a reservoir communicating with the second end of the canal for accommodating the
defogging material.